

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A computer system, comprising:

a base;

10 a display enclosure housing a display; and

a securing mechanism to pivotably secure the
display enclosure to the base, comprising:

15 a positioning assembly that produces a force
to prevent the display enclosure from
pivoting; and

20 an operator, the operator being operable to
remove at least a portion of the force
preventing the display enclosure from
pivoting.

2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the force is generated by friction.

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3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the securing mechanism comprises a first member secured to the display enclosure, a second member secured to the base, and a force producer to drive the first and second members into contact.

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4. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the operator prevents the force producer from driving the first and second members into contact.

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5. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the operator comprises an actuator to enable a user to control the operator.

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6. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the actuator is disposed on the display enclosure.

5 7. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the operator is electrically actuated.

8. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the
10 operator is mechanically actuated.

9. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the base comprises a processor.

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10. A clutch assembly for pivotably securing a computer display to a computer base, comprising:

20 a first portion to enable the computer display to pivot relative to the computer base unit;

a second portion to produce a force to oppose
pivotal motion of the display; and

a third portion operable to prevent the second

5 portion from opposing pivotal motion of the
display.

11. The assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the
third portion is electrically operated.

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12. The clutch assembly as recited in claim 11,
further comprising a fourth portion, the fourth portion
being manually operable to control electrical power to the
third portion.

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13. The clutch assembly as recited in claim 12,
wherein the fourth portion is biased so as to not supply
electrical power to the third portion.

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14. The clutch assembly as recited in claim 10,
wherein the third portion is mechanically operated.

5 15. The clutch assembly as recited in claim 14,
further comprising a fourth portion, the fourth portion
being manually operable to mechanically operate the third
portion.

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16. The clutch assembly as recited in claim 15,
wherein the fourth portion is biased so that the third
portion does not prevent the second portion from opposing
pivotal motion of the display.

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17. A method of operating a computer system having a
base unit and a pivotable display, comprising:

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operating a clutch assembly to reduce a force
opposing pivotal motion of the display; and

pivoting the display.

18. The method as recited in claim 17, further
5 comprising operating the clutch assembly at a desired
position of the display to reestablish the force opposing
pivotal motion of the display.

10 19. The method as recited in claim 17, wherein
operating comprises operating an actuator disposed on the
display.

15 20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein
operating and pivoting are performed by simultaneously
actuating a clutch actuator and pivoting the display.

20 21. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein
operating and pivoting are performed using only a single
hand.